TL 6020

East Timor: It's time to talk

British Coalition for East Timor December 1995

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Hawk jets buzz Dili

A journalist working for a British paper has become the first non-Timorese eyewitness to testify to the use of British-made Hawk fighter jets in East Timor.

Hugh O'Shaughnessy was able to spend only two days in East Timor before he was expelled by Indonesian authorities. But, as well as speaking to many Timorese during his brief stay, he reports that "at 8:50 am local time on 10 November I observed two British-built Hawk warplanes make a low pass over the centre of Dili". He believes that the intention was to intimidate the population in advance of the anniversary of the Santa Cruz massacre.

This is extremely important evidence which runs directly contrary to the British government's consistent claims that the Hawks have never been and will never be used in East Timor. This could also be considered to constitute the use of Hawks against the civilian population, at least for purposes of intimidation though not (in this case, at least) attack.

O'Shaughnessy reported his sighting of the Hawks in the *Independent on Sunday* of November 12 (though unfortunately this article does not make it entirely clear that he saw the planes himself). We hope that there will be further media coverage of this report.

BCET National Gathering 1996

The second annual national gathering of the British Coalition for East Timor will be held in **Coventry**, on **March 16, 1996**

All members and supporters of BCET are encouraged to attend. There will be informational workshops on a range of topics, as well as workshops on campaigning directions for the next year, and the process of evolving a national structure.

More information and registration forms will be available soon. In the meantime, you can contact either the BCET London office, or John Byrne in Warwickshire (see page three for addresses and phone numbers) if you'd like more information.

Important

Please note that during **December and January** Maggie, the BCET worker, will be on maternity leave, and the phone number printed at the top of this page *will not* be functioning as the BCET phone number. If you need to contact us by phone during December or January, please call **0181-851-0518**. The phone number will return to normal at the beginning of February.

Our mailing address will remain the same during this time.

December 7 events

Remembering the 20th anniversary of the the invasion of East Timor by Indonesian troops, a variety of events will be taking place across the country, including a major lobby of Parliament in London on the day itself. There may be events planned in your area which we were not able to list. Get in touch with your regional contact and find out!

December 5

Gillingham, North Kent: public meeting

December 7

London: Mass lobby of Parliament in the afternoon (contact CAAT, 0171-281-0297)

BCET social in the evening, Methodist Central Hall (near Parliament), from 6:30 pm

December 8

Glasgow: Vigil at Glasgow University Catholic Chaplaincy, Southpark Terrace, Turnbull Hall, 7 pm. Postcards calling for a permanent UN presence in East Timor will be distributed throughout the week

December 10

Coventry: Bishop's prayer service for East Timor, Queens Rd Baptist Church, 3 pm

This newsletter is mailed to everyone who wants to receive it. However, we ask those who can afford it to make a donation of £10/year towards the costs of printing and mailing. This will make it possible to send the newsletter to supporters and volunteers who are not able to make a financial contribution. The newsletter is published every two months by BCET in London.